

June 30, 2014

TO: Chair Davis and Commissioners

FROM: Chris Wagaman, Transition Director

Commissioners:

Following the March 23<sup>rd</sup> resignation of the Executive Director, I returned to the Commission to again assume transition duties under an InterAgency Agreement (IAA) between the State Assembly and the Commission.

A majority of my staff time since assuming responsibilities has been focused on identifying outstanding issues and projects, addressing commitments that were represented to have been made on behalf of the Commission, re-creating contact lists, re-establishing proper state processes and working with the Commission's contracted partners that support fiscal and accounting, human resources, and information technology services.

The Commission has continued to work in partnership with the California Department of Education (CDE), the California State Library (CSL), the California Research Bureau (CRB), CalVets and the Women's Foundation on a variety of issues, including:

#### Women Veterans

New Short Subject research papers on women veterans' issues were completed and released by the State Library's CRB. These recently released one-page fact sheets requested by the Commission include "State Veteran Benefit Utilization", "Housing Instability and Homelessness", and "Military Sexual Trauma".

Also in support of women veterans, Commission Chair Davis provided leadership that enabled Military Veterans Affairs in LA County to realize support for new, year-long programming designed especially to reach women veterans that will be launched in July 2014. Organizers have asked that Commissioners be kept updated on the dates of their events and are excited to welcome you at any of their events.

#### Poverty

In May, the Commission facilitated the production of detailed district-level demographic maps showing poverty data. The maps provide a look at how women are faring in specific communities and show that poverty is still a reality for many – especially single mothers. The maps were created for the Women's Foundation of CA, in partnership with the Commission.

### Science Technology Education and Mathematics

In collaboration with the CA Research Bureau, the Commission is involved in the planning and program development with the Department of Education's second annual STEM Symposium to be held this year in San Diego in late September. The Commission was a co-sponsor of the inaugural conference.

Commissioner Alcala and the steering committee are seeking recommendations of speakers/storytellers who can motivate and challenge the conference audience to push to find more ways to engage girls and women in a STEM future.

A contact roster of California City and County Commissions on the Status of Women has been developed, in cooperation with the Association of California Commissions for Women. Leadership and members representing these local commissions have also extended an invitation to each of the Commissioners speak at their local community meetings.

A focused staff effort to identify outdated resources and links on the Commission's website was prioritized and is now moving ahead quickly. A list of selected annual state reports on the status of women and girls is being developed. Please take a moment to review this first iteration of the list so that additional resources can be added.

Although the Commission will soon be transferring much of its support services to the Department of General Services team, newly appointed State Librarian Greg Lucas has expressed his support and we are looking for new ways to work together. The Commission is looking forward to continuing its home location at the State Library at 900 N Street, across the street from the State Capitol. The support from both State Librarian Lucas and Director Klass (and the whole DGS team) have been essential during this transition and very much appreciated.

The recent re-appointment of Commission Chair Geena Davis, the appointment of five new public member Commissioners, and a one-time 2014-15 budget augmentation of \$200,000 being sustained have provided an energized, still challenging, path forward for the Commission.

Special thanks. The Commission has also been assisted by several very talented, patient and eager student interns – Ms. Melissa Barker (who graduated in May with a Master's Degree from St. Mary's College), Ms. Jasmine Rhodes (who graduated in June from CSU, Sacramento) and Ms. Kathryn Donnelly (a University of Redlands student who is volunteering during her summer vacation).